

Application No. 09/715,448
Amendment dated June 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 4, 2004

REMARKS

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, the drawings, specification, and claim 1 have been objected to. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Xu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,628) ("Xu") in view of the Request for Comments 2604 ("RFC 2604") and further in view of Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,667) ("Ikeda"). The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration.

The drawings are objected to. In response, the applicants amend FIGS. 1 and 2 to correspond to the disclosure of the specification and correct other minor informalities. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the examiner approve the proposed changes and withdraw the objections to the drawings. A separate Letter to the Draftsperson is attached.

The specification is objected to. In response, the applicants amend the specification as suggested by the examiner. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the examiner enter the proposed amendments and withdraw the objections to the specification.

Claim 1 is objected to. In response, the applicants amend claim 1 and the specification to clarify that the anonymous connection is an "open" connection for the user registration. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the examiner enter the proposed amendments and withdraw the objection to claim 1.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, the applicants amend claim 2 to correct the minor informalities noted by the examiner. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the §112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) given Xu in view of RFC 2604 and further in view of Ikeda. The applicants amend claims 1 and 2 to clarify the

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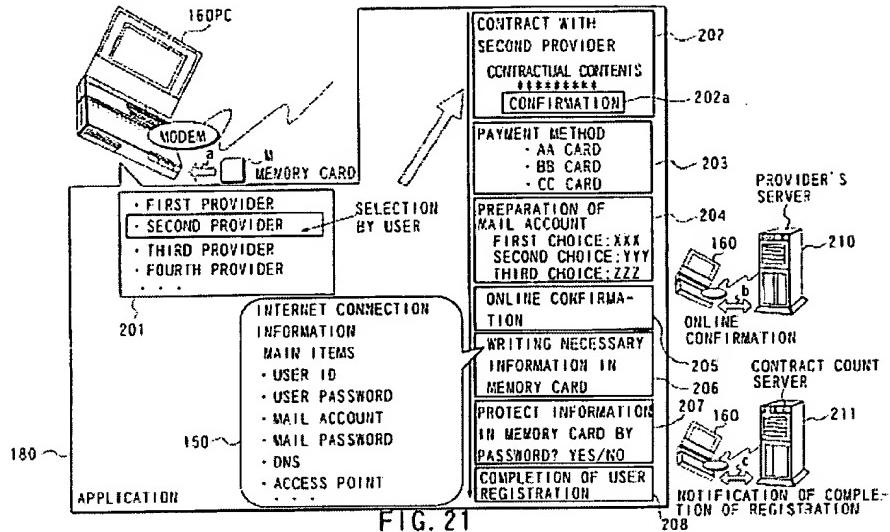
recited features, and respectfully traverse. Specifically, the applicants respectfully submit that contrary to the examiner's assertions, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed features of "transferring electronically said user ID and password to another PC via a temporary transfer to a portable magnetic storage means, a local area network (LAN), an email attachment, or an electronic transferable file to enable said another PC to connect to the allowable ISP," as recited in claim 1.

The applicants note that the rejection of claim 1 did not include specific citation from any of the cited references to anticipate the claimed features of "a temporary transfer to a portable magnetic storage means, a local area network (LAN), an email attachment." As a result, the applicants are unclear as to the examiner's basis for the cited references as they relate to these specific claimed features. The applicants respectfully request that the examiner make references to the relevant portion from the cited references as they relate to these claimed features.

Since the rejection of the claimed feature of "transferring electronically said user ID and password to another PC," as recited in claim 1, is based on the Ikeda reference, the applicants believe that it would be helpful to first briefly describe and characterize the Ikeda reference.

As shown in FIG. 21, Ikeda discloses the use of a portable memory card M that stores Internet connection information (e.g., user ID, user password, mail account, mail password, DNS server address, access point) for Internet access on any electronic devices with a card slot (Column 8, lines 17-30) (FIG. 21 of Ikeda is reproduced below for the convenience of the reader).

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With the use of this portable memory card M, the Internet is accessible without any device specificity, because the memory card M alone is sufficient to establish such Internet connection.

The memory card M stores a certification key in both the internal memory 3b and the memory 4, which is shown in FIG. 6 (Column 3, line 64-67) (FIG. 6 of Ikeda is reproduced below for the convenience of the reader).

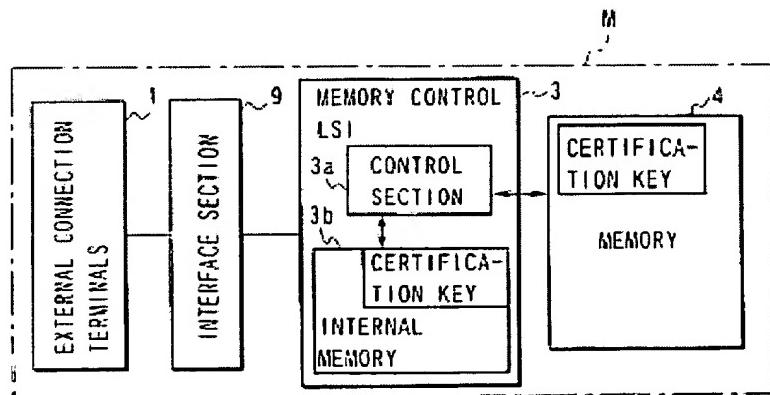


FIG. 6

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The certification key is stored in the unalterable ROM of the memory 4 and the internal memory 3b. In order to access the Internet, Ikeda requires two authentication steps: (1) a certification of the memory card and (2) authentication of the user ID and the user password (Column 8, lines 17-40). In particular, a certification of the memory card requires a match between the certification key in the internal memory 3b and the memory 4 (Column 4, lines 19-22). Once the memory card M has been certified, the stored Internet connection information is used for an authorized connection with an ISP (Column 8, lines 17-40).

Because of the configuration and the required certification key of the memory card M in Ikeda, the user cannot literally access the Internet without the use of the physical memory card M. In other words, the only way that the user can gain access to the Internet via an ISP is to physically carry the memory card M to the device. Of course, however, the device at the time must have a physical slot that takes the memory card M as well. The memory card M is specifically configured for an authorized connection with an ISP for that particular user, and the information needed to access the Internet is permanently affixed onto the card, because the card is designed to be physically carried by the user. And if the information on the card is to be transferred, Ikeda specifically requires that the uploading of any information to the card be done at a retail shop (Column 8, line 65 to Column 9, line 32).

However, the need for a retail shop is exactly one of problems that the present invention is trying to solve. One of the benefits of the present invention is to eliminate the cumbersome required action on the customer to visit the retailer or network service provider to either register as a new user or as an existing user on a new PC (Applicants' specification, p. 2 ll. 10-15). The customer, in the present invention, in contrast, can seamlessly transfer the user ID and password to another PC without traveling to the retailer or the network provider. The claimed features of claim 1, as amended, specifies

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that the user ID and password are transferred to another PC via a temporary transfer to a portable magnetic storage means, a local area network (LAN), an email attachment, or an electronic transferable file to enable said another PC to connect to the allowable ISP."

Unlike Ikeda, the transfer to the portable magnetic storage means is temporary, because the storage means is simply used as a way to carry the information to another computer. However, the storage means is not physically needed to connect the computer to the Internet as in Ikeda. As a result, there is nothing in Ikeda that can be reasonably interpreted to be the same as the claimed features of "transferring the user ID and password to another PC," as recited in claim 1. Moreover, Ikeda specifically teaches away from the claimed features as recited, because the memory card with the permanent information is required to authenticate the user to access the Internet.

As best as the applicants can determine from the Office Action, the examiner asserts that it would be obvious to combine the cited references to add new users at a greatly reduced cost by using over-the-air activation mechanisms as opposed to manual parameter provisioning as taught by RFC 2604 and to extend flexibility on network access by allowing other PCs to include newly purchased PCs, laptop PCs, or PCs while traveling (March 4, 2004 Office Action, page 6). However, the applicants respectfully submit that the asserted combination is not obvious, because none of the references recognizes or addresses one of the problems solved by the present invention, specifically to eliminate the need for a user to go to a retailer or provider in order to register as a new user or to change to a new PC. As a result, the motivations asserted do not appear to be based in any of the cited references. In fact, Ikeda specifically teaches away from the claimed features as recited. Thus, the applicants respectfully

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submit that the examiner has improperly used hindsight in asserting the §103 rejection of obviousness using the Xu, RFC 2604, and Ikeda references.

On the other hand, if these asserted motivations are based on an inherency argument, the applicants respectfully request that the examiner clarify as such. Furthermore, the applicants further respectfully request that the examiner specifically cites and explains how the cited references disclose or suggest these asserted motivations. The applicants would like to remind the examiner that a *prima facie* case of obviousness requires that (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the teachings, (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) the prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP §§706.02(j) and 2143-2143.03. None of these requirements are met in this case. Furthermore, if the present rejection is based on any facts within the personal knowledge of the examiner, the applicants respectfully request that the facts be set forth in the form of an affidavit. See MPEP §2144.03. Accordingly, for all these reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 may be passed to allowance.

Claim 2 and newly added claim 3 ultimately depend upon claim 1, which has been shown allowable above. In addition, these claims introduce additional content that, particularly when considered in context with the claim or claims from which they depend, introduces additional incremental patentable subject matter. Nevertheless, the applicants reserve the right to present further arguments in the future with regard to the dependent claims in the event that the independent claims are found to be

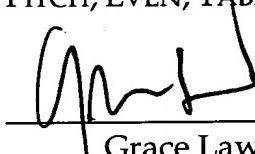
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unpatentable. For all these reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix



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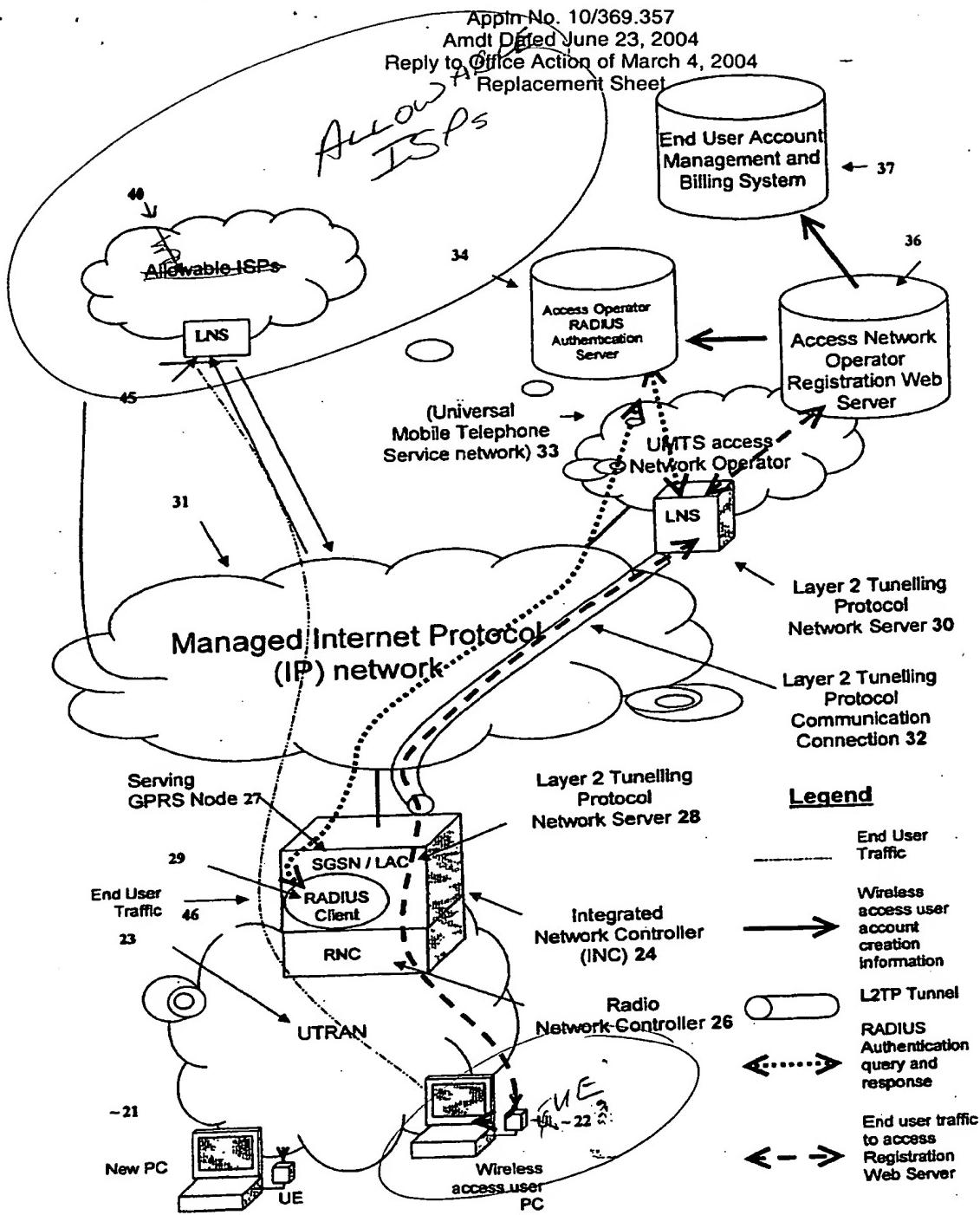


Figure - 1



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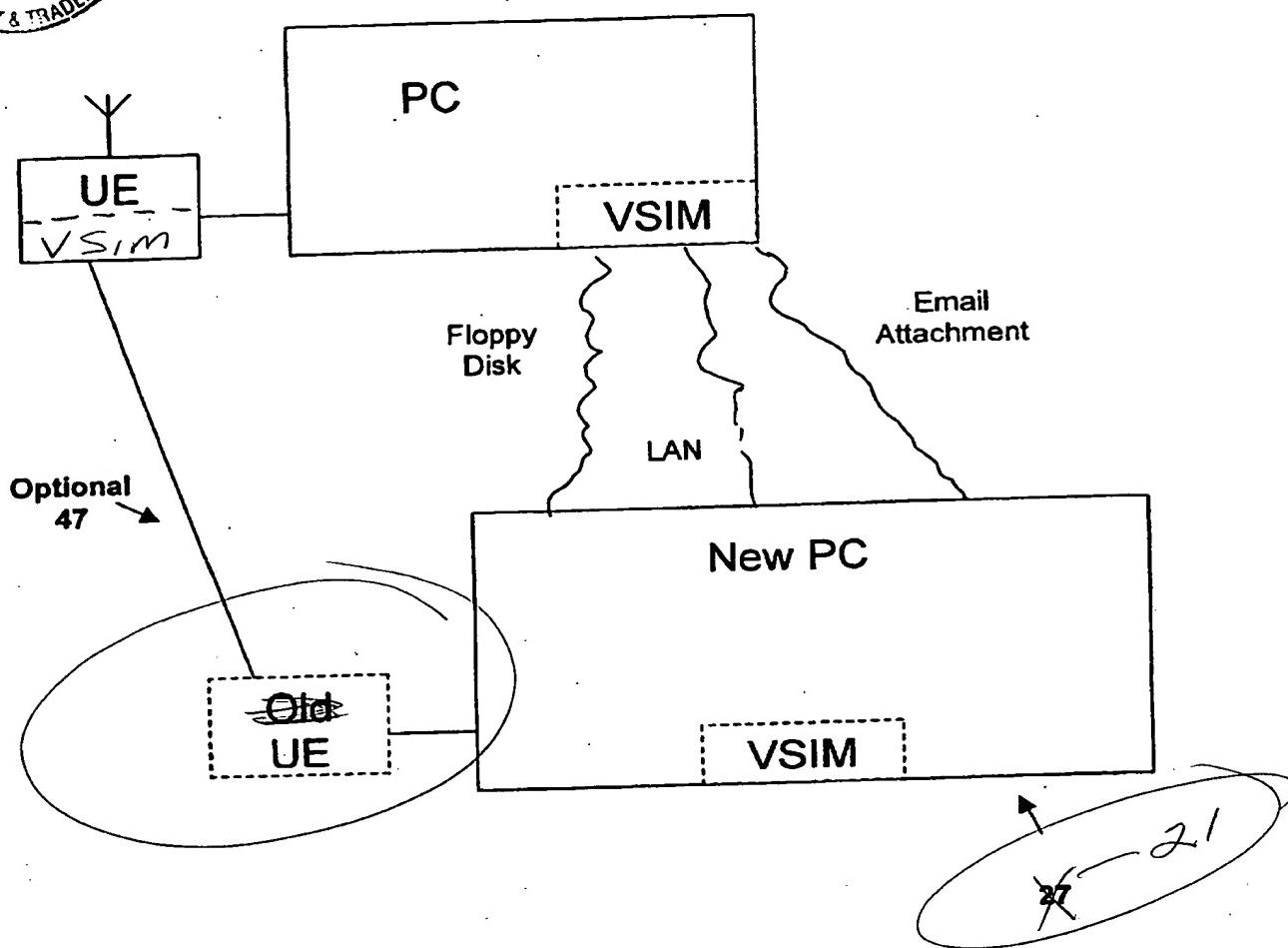


Figure - 2

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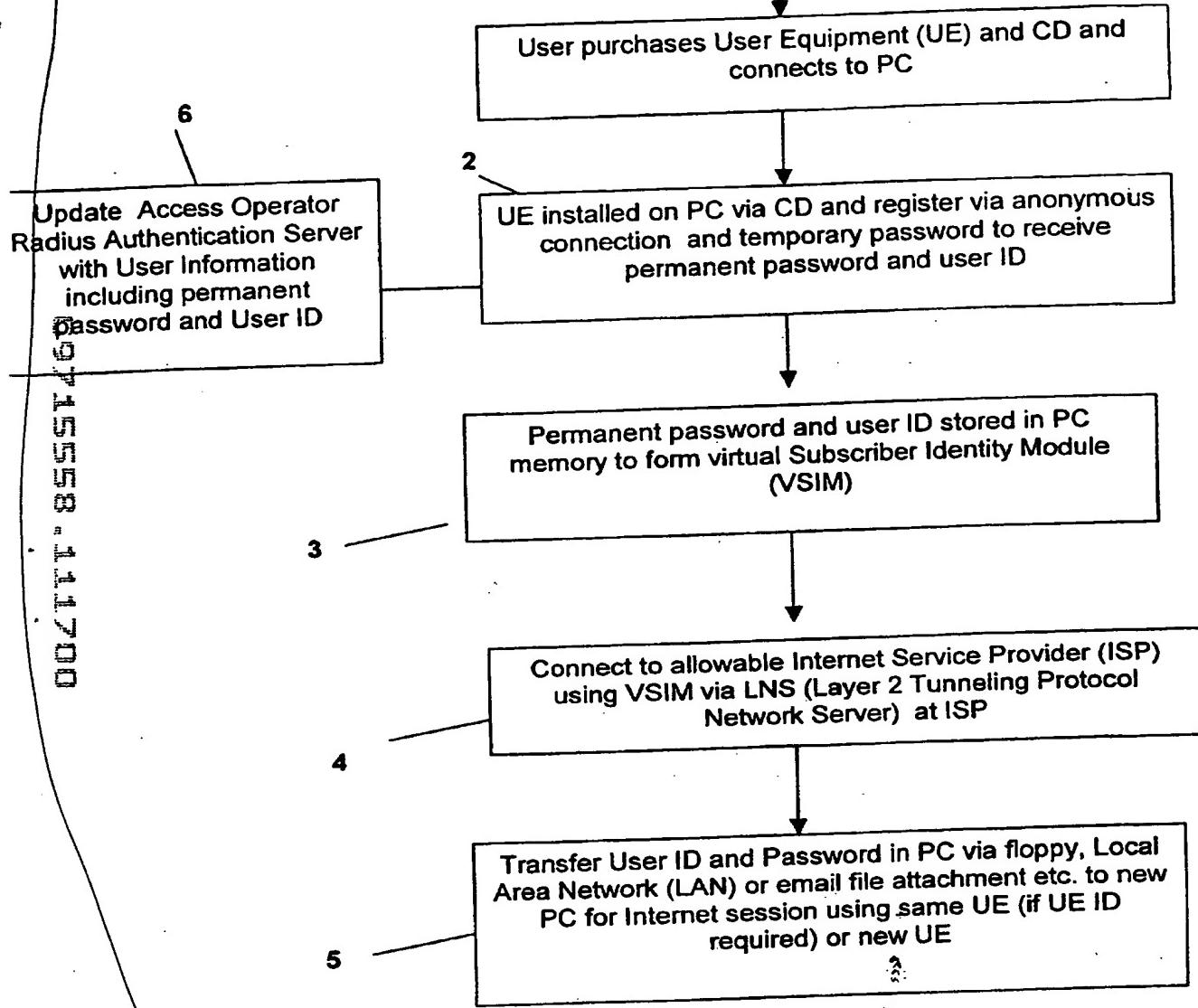


Figure - 3